

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

In RE: Petition for Declaratory Ruling)	Declaratory Ruling No. 35
Filed by Paul Leavens, R.N.)	RN Starting Intraosseous
December 9, 1988)	Infusion

A petition for declaratory ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by Paul Leavens, R.N., Director--Air Care, Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, Iowa, on December 9, 1988.

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule or other written statement of law or policy, decision, or order of the agency" pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.9 (1987). See also Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], Chapter 9.

Our interpretation of the question presented in the petition is:

May a registered nurse employed as a flight nurse at Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, Iowa, start intraosseous infusions when peripheral veins cannot be cannulated?

The Board considers the starting of intraosseous infusions, in life-threatening situations, to be within the scope of practice of a registered nurse employed as a flight nurse at Covenant Medical Center.

Rationale:

Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], § 6.2(1) states:

The registered nurse shall recognize and understand the legal implications within the scope of nursing practice. The scope of nursing practice considered to be minimum standards of nursing practice shall not be

interpreted to include those practices currently ascribed to the advanced registered nurse practitioner.

Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], § 6.2(5)

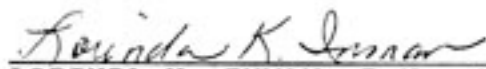
states in part:

The registered nurse shall recognize and understand the legal implications of accountability. Accountability includes but need not be limited to the following:

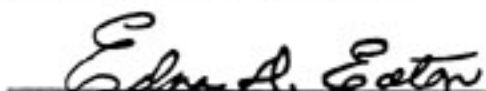
- a. Performing or supervising those activities and functions which require the knowledge and skill level currently ascribed to the registered nurse and seeking assistance when activities and functions are beyond the licensee's scope of preparation.

The registered nurse who is a flight nurse is adequately prepared to and may start an intraosseous infusion when:

1. The nurse has completed an appropriate inservice education program including theory and line placement, has successfully demonstrated the insertion of the needle and documentation thereof is contained in the nurse's personnel file.
2. The institution has a written policy identifying that the procedure is acceptable practice for the registered nurse--flight nurse in that facility.
3. The procedure is prescribed by the physician by written protocol.


LORINDA K. INMAN, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Nursing

March 3, 1989
DATE


EDNA D. EATON, R.N., B.S.N.
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Nursing

March 3, 1989
DATE